

toun. Peter McMillan of the Zoology Department, University of Western Australia, identified the ants. This work was financed by a University of Western Australia Postgraduate Studentship. I also thank B. Miller and W. R. Black for their comments.

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FROM FIELD AND STUDY

Insect Pollination of *Suaeda australis* (Chenopodiaceae).—*Suaeda australis* (R.Br.) Moq. is a common wind-pollinated perennial herb, found on damp saline soils throughout southern Western Australia. The author studied this species at Wilkie Street Swamp, South Guildford, where it formed a large monospecific stand on open saline black mud. Plants at this locality flower during summer producing copious amounts of pollen but no nectar. Observations during January and February 1978 showed large numbers of honey-bees (*Apis mellifera* L.) and syrphid flies were collecting pollen from open flowers. They visited from 1-20 flowers per plant before moving on. Flowers checked after visitations had pollen deposited on the stigma (plants from this area are self fertile). From the large number of visits and their systematic nature it is apparent that insect pollination must be of considerable importance in this population of normally wind-pollinated herbs.

—G. J. KEIGHERY, Kings Park and Botanic Garden, West Perth.

Bird Records from the Salt Lake, Culeenup I. Yundurup.—The Salt Lake at the western end of Culeenup (Mill) Island, Yundurup had an unusually good assortment of birdlife when we visited it on May 12, 1979. There were literally dozens of White-faced Herons (we counted 36 in one flight) flying with some half-dozen White Egrets. Feeding among the samphire on the south side of the lake were several dozen Banded Stilts. Most exciting was the sighting of a White Ibis, flying with the egrets and herons. When we returned to the lake next day none of these birds were present.

The bird list for the Yundurup delta published in the *W.A. Naturalist*, 11 (7), 1970, p. 164, makes no mention of the White Ibis. However Naturalist Club records include a sighting of a flock of eight birds soaring in a thermal over Lot 24 on March 3, 1975.

—RAY OLDHAM, Swanbourne.

Pollination of *Nematolepis* (Rutaceae).—*Nematolepis* is an endemic genus of large shrubs which occurs on limestone clay soils between Lake Grace and Israelite Bay. The sole species *N. phebaloides* generally occurs in dense populations under mallee eucalypts within this region. Flowering occurs sporadically between April and December, but peak flowering is during spring (Aug.-Nov.). The flowers are solitary, tubular, coloured red

with green tips (Fig. 1) and borne in great profusion on the bushes during peak flowering. Nectar is produced at the base of the floral tube.

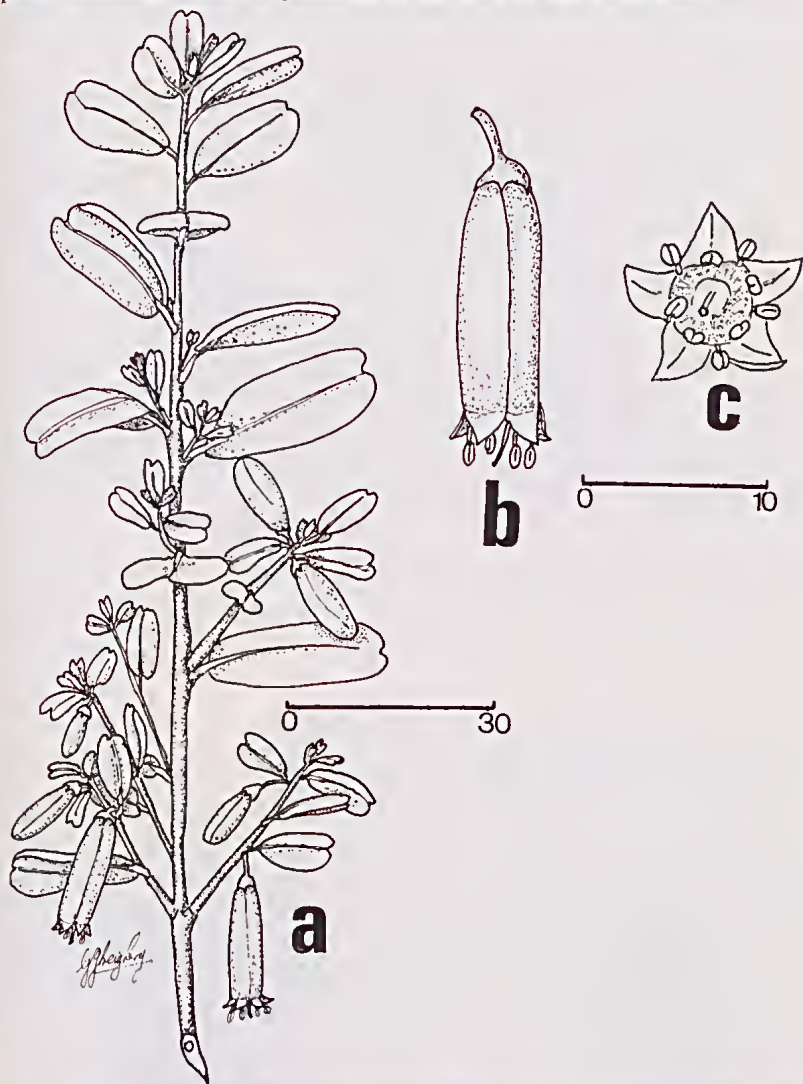


Fig. 1.—*Nematolepis phebaliioides*. a, branch; b, flower; c, open flower from below. Scale bars in mm.

During August 1976 I was able to observe two large populations of *Nematolepis* in flower at Needup Copper Mine and near Fitzgerald Inlet in Fitzgerald National Park. Both populations were being visited by numerous New Holland Honeyeaters which were observed carrying pollen between plants.

Within the same area the birds were observed feeding on *Eucalyptus occidentalis* and rarely on *Bossiaea dentata*.

I would like to thank Mrs J. Dewing who provided transport to and through a very wet Fitzgerald National Park.

—G. J. KEIGHERY, Kings Park and Botanic Garden, West Perth.